

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

U.S. Coast Guard

University of Maryland Manufacturing Assistance Program

U.S. Coast Guard Converts Facility at Curtis Bay with Help From UMMAP and VPMEP

Client Profile:

The U.S. Coast Guard Station Curtis Bay, Maryland, is located along Curtis Creek at the U.S. Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland. The station is staffed by 480 people who maintain the Coast Guard's missions of Homeland Security and search and rescue. The station is also responsible for law enforcement and pollution response missions.

Situation:

The U.S. Coast Guard Yard at Curtis Bay wanted to convert its operation over to Lean and Six Sigma. They contacted Virginia's A.L. Philpott Manufacturing Extension Partnership (VPMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, who has experience with other ship yards, both Navy and Coast Guard. They then contacted the University of Maryland Manufacturing Assistance Program (UMMAP), a NIST MEP network affiliate formerly known as the Maryland Technology Extension Service, since the USCG is located in Baltimore, Maryland.

Yard Facilities personnel were asked to redo Building 6A, formerly used to descale pipe in various tanks, to give it more weather protection and update the waste water recover systems. This area is used by many shops but mostly by the garage and the pipe shops. The pipe shop also needed a place to descale pipe and other small items, such as condensers. The 6A team, composed of MTES, VPMEP and USCG was asked to look into whether this building could serve two purposes, steam cleaning and descaling.

Solution:

UMMAP along with the VPMEP and Coast Guard reviewed potential uses of Building 6. UMMAP and USCG engineers calculated that the estimated modifications expenses would be less than \$35,000. UMMAP calculated, and the USCG agreed, that the savings in converting the building to steam cleaning and descaling would be \$100,000 and that the estimated savings for not using steam during the summer would be \$3,000 per day.

Results:

- * Realized \$100,000 in cost savings by converting facility.
- * Achieved a cost avoidance of \$3,000 a day during summer months.

Testimonial:

"Although still a work in process, this study has the potential to be a real cost saver. With a minimum of effort, the Lean Team (VPMEP and UMMAP) was able to assemble the right people and brain storm the best use for a currently abandoned facility."

Keith Herchenroder, Coast Guard Business Manager

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